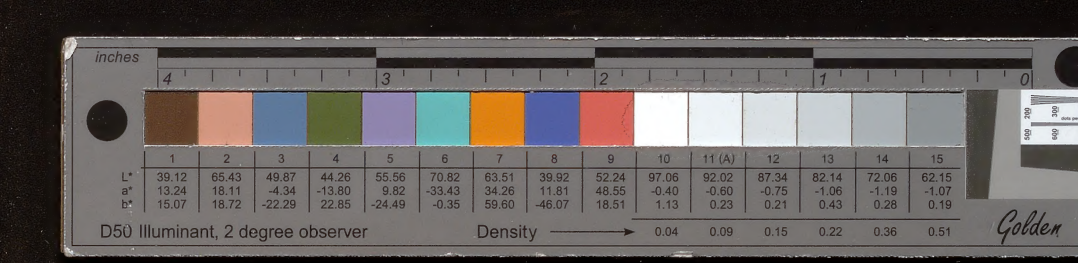

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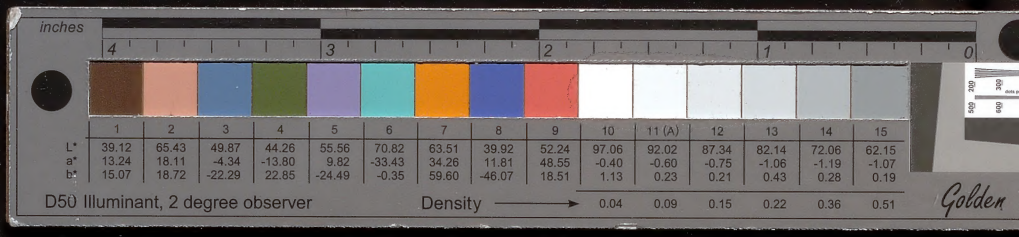
CATALOGUE *of the* LIBRARY COMPANY *of* PHILADELPHIA

1741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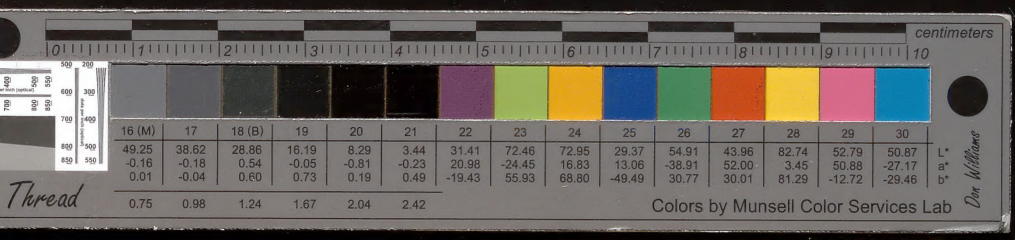
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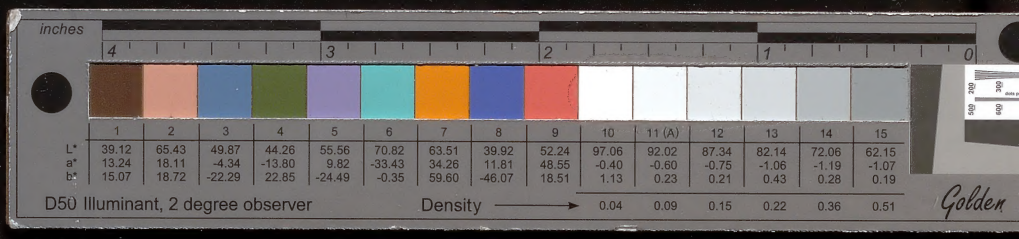

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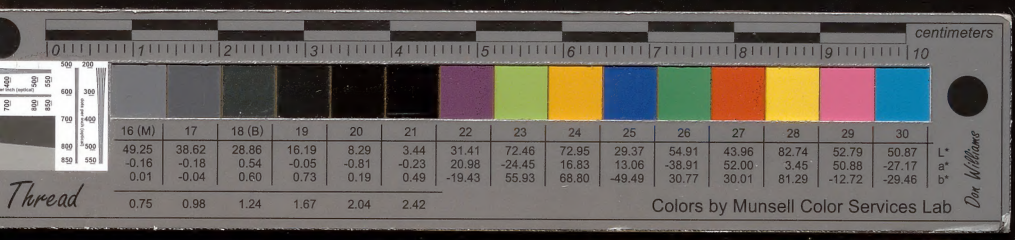


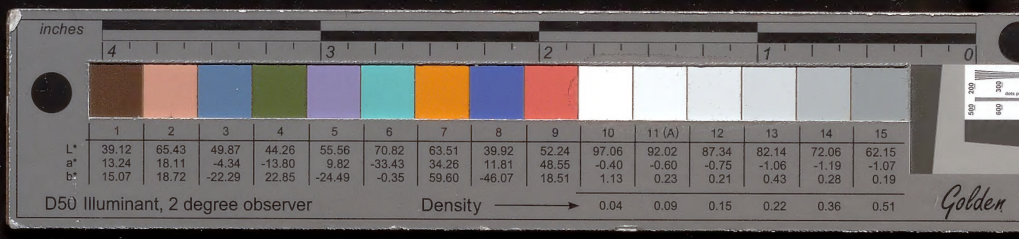
A CATALOGUE OF BOOKS BELONGING TO THE LIBRARY COMPANY OF PHILADELPHIA

A Facsimile of the Edition of 1741 Printed *by* BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, With an Introduction *by* EDWIN WOLF 2ND

PHILADELPHIA:

Printed for The Library Company of Philadelphia to mark the 250th Anniversary of the Birth of Franklin

1956



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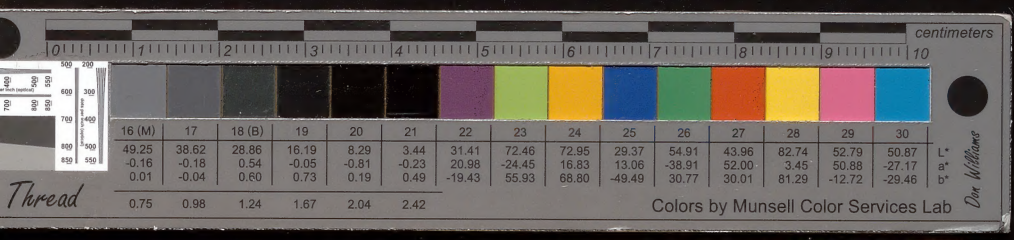
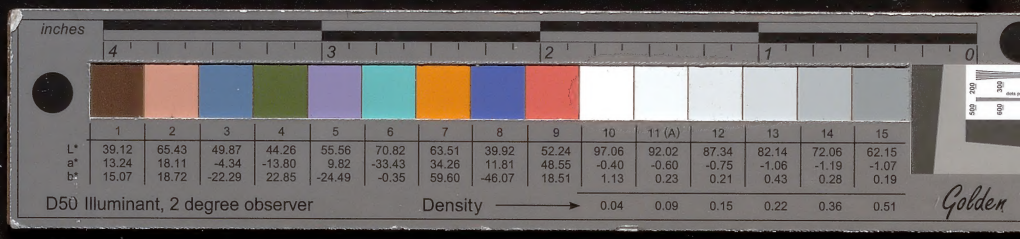


INTRODUCTION

"I am but a poor ordinary Mechanick of this city, obliged to work hard for the maintenance of myself, my wife, and several small children. When my daily labour is over, instead of going to the Alehouse, I amuse myself with the Books of the Library Company, of which I am an unworthy Member." This statement, which appeared in one of a series of anonymous letters in Franklin's *Pennsylvania Gazette* in the spring of 1740, reflected admirably the character and use of the Library Company of Philadelphia.

The chances are that Franklin himself was the author of the letter, for in his Autobiography he says much the same thing about himself and the Library. The Company was an unique organization in colonial America at the time of its founding in 1731, unique because it was brought into being by a group of small merchants, tradesmen and artisans struggling to gain wealth and position. Benjamin Franklin, pragmatical and intellectually curious, was their leader and prototype. No other evidence reveals more clearly the cultural interests and, in a way, the aspirations of Franklin and his associates than the books they ordered for their common use.

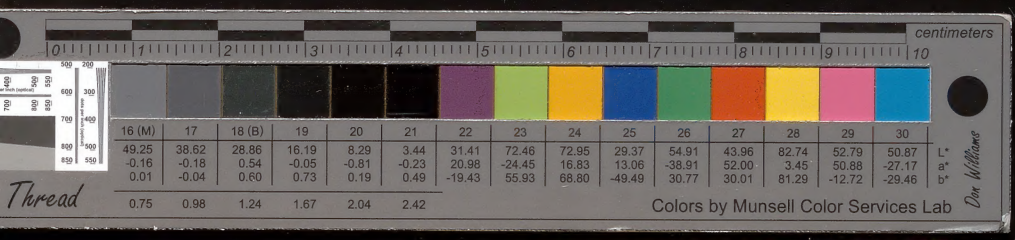
Other libraries, to be sure, had preceded the Library Company on the American scene, but they were of a different nature. Three college collections—



Harvard, William and Mary, and Yale—had already been established before the Company came into being. However, these were academic institutions, and their books, largely the gifts of interested individuals in England and the colonies, were strongly theological in content, reflecting the prime purpose of the colleges, the education of young men for the ministry. The selection was essentially of works which the colleges or the donors expected the professors and students to use. By and large, the choice was superimposed from without for educational purposes. In this respect, the selection of books by members of the Library Company differed; the desire for the book stemmed from the reader.

Private libraries, of which there were probably more than has been generally supposed, reflected varying tastes. Yet, these collections were, of course, the result of the tastes of an individual rather than a group, and were representative of the highest level of colonial culture, where the company was few. The books in these private hands ranged from an overwhelming predominance of theological writings, such as were owned by the Winthrops, the Mathers, and Thomas Prince of Boston, to a cultivated gentleman's choice, as typified by William Byrd of Westover, or as refined and intellectualized by James Logan of Philadelphia.

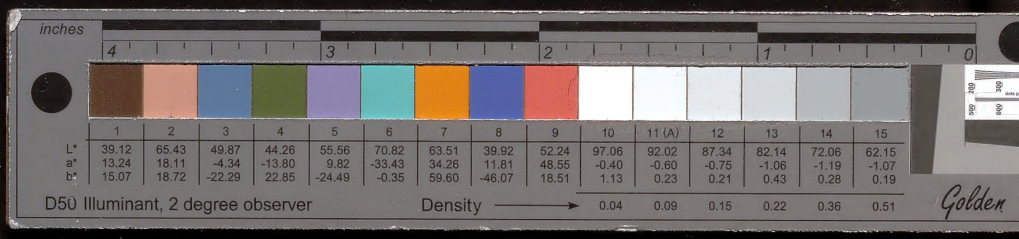
A few public libraries had been founded in various places by individual benefactors and, on a broader scale, by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, but by 1731 these collections had been destroyed, dispersed or lay dormant.



At best they had been a few bookcases of theological works, and their cultural impact on the communities in which they had been set up had not been great.

It remained for Franklin and his friends to hit upon a scheme which would meet the needs of the ambitious man whose purse was limited and who had not enjoyed a formal education. The subscription library, in which the shareholders pooled their resources to secure the greatest number of books for their common use, proved to be the answer. The members benefited not only through borrowing privileges but through a choice of books attuned to their wants. So successful did the Company prove that other localities established similar institutions, and by the time of the Revolution there were many library companies and societies scattered throughout the colonies. It was Franklin's opinion that "these libraries have improved the general conversation of the Americans, made the common tradesmen and farmers as intelligent as most gentlemen from other countries, and perhaps have contributed in some degree to the stand so generally made throughout the colonies in defence of their privileges."

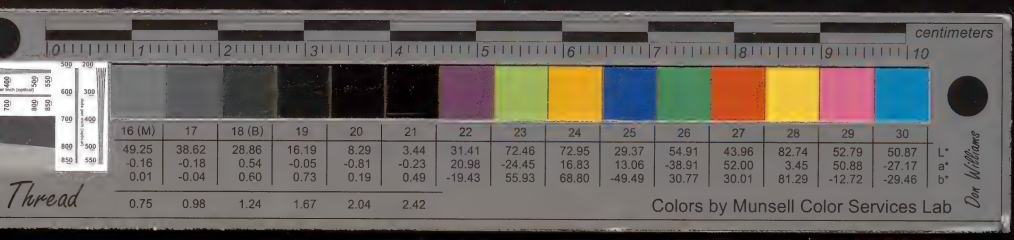
Certain it was that as the Library Company of Philadelphia grew, chiefly by purchase, partly by gift, it became *the* library of Philadelphia, a significant and permanent part of the city's intellectual resources. In a broad sense it was a "public" library, for while circulation was restricted to members, others were able to use books in the library. Franklin referred to the Company as "the Philadelphia public library," and others testified to its predominance



by calling it the "Philadelphia Library" or the "City Library."

The earliest surviving printed record of the books in the collection is the fifty-three page, octavo catalogue of 1741, which lists by size and in no other order three hundred and seventy-five titles. That these titles represented a popular, democratic choice is apparent from the Minutes of the Company, which contain such entries as those of July 15, 1734, "a list of Books was drawn out and made choice of, from Lists brought by several of the Committee," and of April 10, 1738, when it was ordered "that an Advertisement be put up in the Library Room to acquaint the Subscribers that the Directors would be willingly assisted in the Choice of the next Parcel of Books which they are to send for." The standard procedure for getting books was for such a list to be sent off to Peter Collinson, the scientist friend of Bartram and Franklin, who had agreed to act as the Company's unpaid London agent. Sometimes a few of the books asked for could not be found in the bookstores or were too expensive; sometimes Collinson or a member of the Company who happened to be abroad made additional suggestions. By and large, however, the collection consisted of specific orders which originated from the group in Philadelphia, augmented by gifts from members and friends.

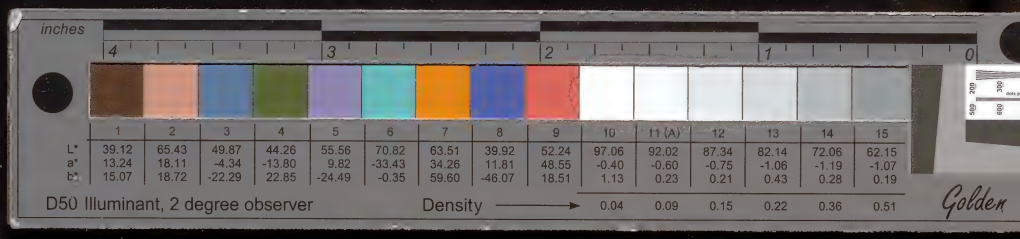
In selecting the titles for the first order, the Directors asked the advice of the erudite James Logan, the owner of the best chosen private library in America. There is no doubt that his experience and book knowledge were factors in the Company's



selection. It may be, as Miss Dorothy F. Grimm has pointed out in an unpublished history of the Library Company, that later reliance was placed on a list of books included by John Clarke at the end of his *Essay upon Study*, 1731, a copy of which was acquired by the library as early as 1735. Suggestions by other writers, including John Locke, may also have been used, but the ultimate selection was that decided by the Directors.

One basis of their selection becomes apparent from a comparison of the Library Company list with those of other libraries of the period, including its succeeding sister subscription libraries throughout the country. A great many of the works were evidently recognized as standard texts. A high proportion of them were to be found in Logan's library, on the shelves at Harvard and Yale, and to an even greater degree in such a later, similar institution as the New York Society Library. The collection of the Library Company differed from those of other libraries not so much in individual titles, as in the predominance of certain fields of learning to the virtual exclusion of others.

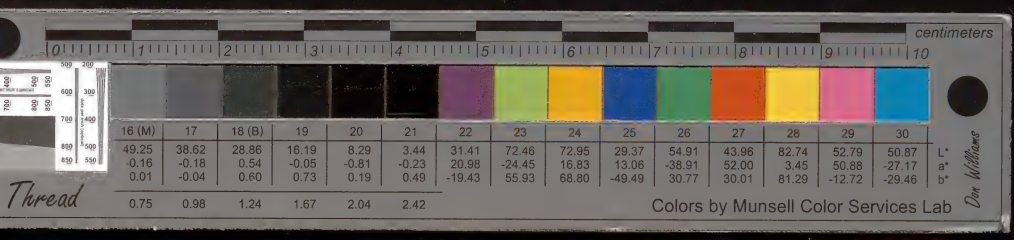
The three hundred and seventy-five titles listed in the 1741 catalogue can be roughly divided into subjects as follows: History 114, Literature 69, Science 65, Theology 38, Philosophy 33, Social Sciences 28, Arts 13, Linguistics 10, and General 5. It is of more than passing interest that of the three hundred and seventy-five entries eighty-four were gifts, which, subtracted from the main classes, would leave as works actually ordered: History 91, Litera-



ture 55, Science 51, Philosophy 28, Theology 25, and Social Sciences 21.

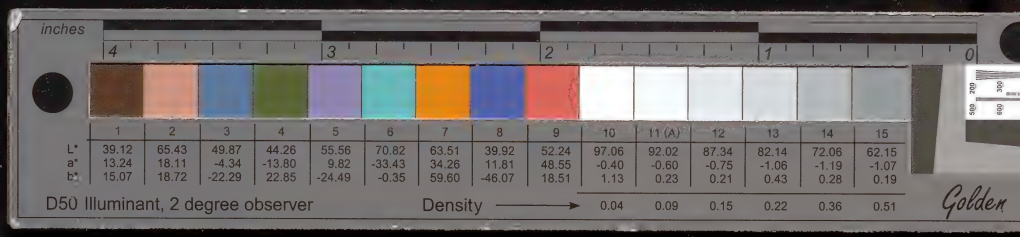
Several distinctive features of the Company's selection, as thus revealed, are noteworthy. First, it is obvious that the members ordered theology with an extremely light hand. In comparison, the 1723 catalogue of Harvard College Library with its supplements to 1735 shows that approximately two-thirds of its books were theological. Yale's collection as of 1743 was not quite so heavy; theology constituted about half. And as Louis B. Wright has noted, we sometimes forget the taste of Virginians for religious literature as we concentrate upon the appetite of the New England Puritans for such fare. Wright found a heavy weighting of theology and law in the seventeenth and early eighteenth century Virginia libraries in private hands.

To avoid theology then was distinctly unusual, but so was the purposeful avoidance of books in foreign languages. The Library Company owned only thirteen such, of which ten were gifts. The only foreign titles it ordered were Grotius' *De Jure Belli* in Latin, *Don Quixote* in Spanish, and Pascal's *Lettres Provinciales* in French, and in each case it also possessed an English translation. Again in comparison, approximately one-half of the books in Harvard's library were in foreign languages, chiefly Latin, the scholar's *lingua franca*, and in erudite James Logan's personal collection the percentage was even higher. Most of the Library Company's members had little Latin and less Greek, and apparently had no consuming desire to do much about it.



The shunning of the ancients and the emphasis on English were purposeful, for Franklin, complaining in 1789 about the priority given to the classics at the Academy of Philadelphia contrary to the plans of its original founders, stated, "As in the Scheme of the Library I had provided only for English Books, so in this new Scheme my Ideas went no farther than to procure the means of a Good English Education." The tradesmen of Philadelphia, and elsewhere as evidenced by other subscription libraries, did not look upon Latin and Greek as necessary steps up the social ladder.

If they were not seeking to become "cultured gentlemen" in the contemporary sense, they did want information on a vast number of subjects. History, according to the count, was their primary interest, and English history the largest sub-section, but the countries covered ranged from Denmark to Turkey and from Russia to Morocco, as well as remote regions described in collections of voyages and travels which spanned the world. Broad as their scope was, there was, intriguingly enough, a definite slant to their interest. The English histories were written from the Whig point-of-view, and a large number of the others—particularly the works of the Abbé Vertot, five of whose popular histories were in the collection—dealt with revolution and the subversion of established monarchies. This type of book, and in fact the same titles, seem to have been in most American libraries, public and private, indicating that the background for revolution existed in the histories most esteemed by the colonials.



In the field of literature, the choice was based largely on contemporary popularity. The giants of England—Chaucer and Shakespeare—were notably lacking, but that too was a reflection of the taste of the times, for the old poets had not yet become the critics' delight and the schoolboys' terror. The list of belle-lettristic works the Company bought reads like—and in fact is—a rollcall of yesteryear's best sellers. Louis B. Wright also noted this fact, and observed succinctly, "In general, the most commonly found literary works were not books by the greatest authors."

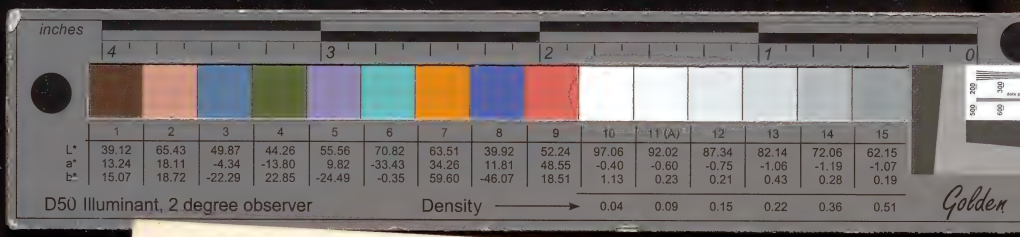
It was the Augustans, then gleaming untarnished, who caught the fancy of the Philadelphians. The shelf of long, dull poems, now forgotten, was relieved by the works of Dryden, Pope and a few others of more lasting fame. But, judging from signs of use, the most popular of all literary works were the periodical essays, the *Spectator*, *Tatler*, and *Guardian*, the best expression of Whig, middle-class thinking, clearly presented and full of common-sense. Franklin said that he painstakingly modelled his own literary style on that of the *Spectator*.

If the Library Company was unusual because of the low percentage of theological books on its shelves, it was equally so because of the comparatively high proportion of scientific ones. The collection was formed at the very time when the flowering of the age of scientific inquiry, initiated by Descartes, had reached so advanced a stage in England that for the first time a scientist—Newton—was being widely hailed as one of the British immortals. And the mem-

bers of the Company were from the beginning ardent Newtonians. Like Franklin they were serious "natural philosophers" of the experimental school. So, with a sound selection of books in the pure and applied sciences and, as time went on, scientific equipment as well, the Library Company became in fact the first scientific society in Philadelphia. It is frequently forgotten that, when Franklin in 1747 wrote Collinson his first letter on electricity, the "several of us" referred to as having participated in the experiments were later identified by him as "of the Library Company."

If they were basically Newtonian in natural philosophy, the members were equally Lockian in speculative philosophy. The only editorial comment in the whole printed catalogue of 1741 follows the entry of Locke's *Essay upon Human Understanding*—"Esteemed the best Book of Logick in the World." Except for Pope and Abbé Vertot, Locke was represented by more titles in the library than any other author, and his important successors, Shaftesbury and Hutcheson, also found favor with the Philadelphians. The city, greatly influenced by the utopian dreams of its founder, the Quaker Penn, and dominated morally by the tolerant, humanitarian principles of his fellow-Quakers, received comforting support from the liberal doctrines of Locke and his followers.

These were the general characteristics of the collection which the members of the Library Company gathered for their own use in the first ten years of their co-operative venture. While the number of books grew from 375 titles in 1741 to 2,033 in 1770,



the general character of the collection remained as it had been. An interest in history remained predominant, but more and more pamphlets on the contemporary American scene were purchased as they came out, reflecting the members' rise in status from onlookers to participants in the government of the province. In literature the policy of buying the most popular current books continued, and Fielding, Richardson, Smollett, Gray, and Johnson made their due appearance in the library. However, as strictly scientific institutions, like the Pennsylvania Hospital and the American Philosophical Society, began to function and form their own libraries, the need for scientific books became less, and the high proportion of them was not maintained. Yet, three distinctive features of the earliest choice remained constant; comparatively few theological works were added, almost no books were bought in a language other than English, and the radical, Whig tone of the selection was continued.

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A CATALOGUE OF BOOKS BELONGING TO THE LIBRARY COMPANY OF *PHILADELPHIA.*

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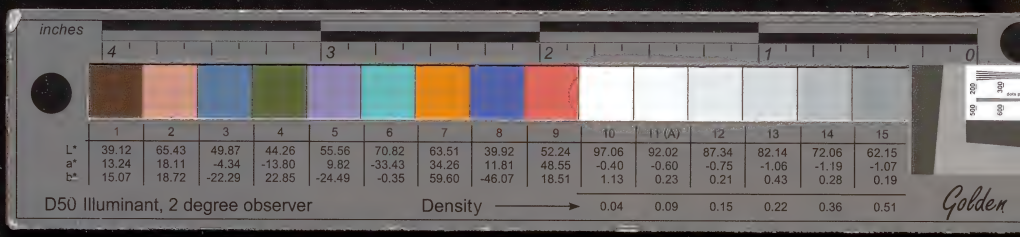
PHILADELPHIA: Printed by *B. Franklin*, 1741.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167.D by the Cardinal *de Retz*, explanatory to theſe Memoirs. 4 Vols. Tranſlated from the French, with Notes. London 1723.

✓*Inſtructions for the Education of a Daughter*; by the Author of Telemachus. To which is added a ſmall Tract of Inſtructions for the Conduct of young Ladies
216.D of the higheſt Rank, with ſuitable Devotions annexed. Done into Engliſh by Dr. Geo. Hickes. 4th Edition, corrected, with Additions, London 1721.

The *complete Family-Piece*, and Country-Gentleman, and Farmer's beſt Guide: Containing, 1 A valuable Collection of above 1000 practical Family-Receipts, in Phyſick, Surgery, Cookery, &c. 2 Inſtructions to be obſerved in Hunting, Courſing, Setting, Shooting, Fiſhing, &c. A complete Kalendar for all Work neceſſary in Gardens, Green-Houſes, &c. 3 Practical Rules and Methods for the improving of Land and managing a Farm, &c. 2d Edition, improved, Lond. 1737.

✓*Farriery improved*; or, A complete Treatiſe upon the Art of Farriery: Wherein is explained the Nature, Structure, and Mechaniſm of a Horſe; the Diſeaſes and Accidents he is liable to, and Methods of Cure, &c.
65930.D By *Henry Bracken*, M. D. Author of the Notes on Gordon. 2d Edition, London 1739.

✓The *Dunciad*, by *Alexander Pope*, Eſq; With the Prolegomena of *Scribblerus*, and Notes Variorum. Lond.
Log 968.D 1735.

In

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Colors by Munsell Color Services Lab
Don Williams

In *Hugonis Grotii* De Jure Belli & Pacis, Lib. II. cap. priora VII, ad illuſtriſſimum Baronem Biörnebergium, Commentatio, *J. Henrici Bœchleri.* Argentorati 1664.

Poems on ſeveral Occaſions, by Mr. *John Gay.* 2 Vols. London 1737. 3853.D

The Celeſtial Worlds diſcovered; or, Conjectures concerning the Inhabitants, Plants and Productions of the Worlds in the Planets. Written in Latin by *Chriſtianus Huygens*; and inſcribed to his Brother *Conſtantine Huygens*, late Secretary to King *William.* 2d Edition, corrected and enlarged. London 1722. 98.D

Homer's Odyſſey; tranſlated by Mr. *Alexander Pope.* 5 Vols. London 1735. *1725.* Log 970.D

Homer's Iliad; tranſlated by the ſame Hand. 6 Vols. London 1731. Log 969.D

The *Independent Whig*; or, A Defence of Primitive Chriſtianity, and our Eccleſiaſtical Eſtabliſhment, againſt the exorbitant Claims and Encroachments of Fanatical and diſſaffected Clergymen. 6th Edition, with Additions and Amendments. 3 Vols. Lon. 1735.

Leonidas, a Poem; by *R. Glover.* 3d Edition, Lond. 1738. 65672.D

Lady's Travels into Spain; deſcribing the Devotions, Nunneries, Humour, Cuſtoms, Laws, Militia, Trade, Diet and Recreations of the People, &c. 10th Edition, with the Addition of a Letter of the State of Spain as it was in the Year 1700, by an Engliſh Gentleman. 2 Vols. London 1735.

Lucan's Pharſalia, tranſlated into Engliſh Verſe by *Nicholas Rowe*, Eſq; 2 Vols. 2d Edit. Lond. 1722. 65153.D

The Hiſtory of the League; Written in French by Monſ. *Maimbourg:* Tranſlated into Engliſh by Mr. *Dryden.* Lond. 1684. (*Given by Mr. Iſaac Williams.*) 928.O

Titus Livius in Nuce. High-Dutch. 205.D

Memorials for the Government of the Royal Burghs in Scotland; with ſome Overtures laid before the Nobility 514.D

bility and Gentry of the ſeveral Shires in this Kingdom; as alſo a Survey of the City of Aberdeen; with the Epigrams of Arthur Johnſton upon ſome of our chief Burghs, tranſlated into Engliſh, Aberdeen 1685.

The young Student's Memorial Book, or *Pocket Library*; containing, 1 The Rudiments of Logarithms, Decimals, and Algebra. 2 A very large Collection of Theorems, and Canons for ſolving Queſtions, and Problems in the various Parts of Arithmetick, Algebra and Fluxions. 368.D 3 Rules, Theorems and Canons reſolving all the uſeful and common Problems in the Mathematical and Mechanical Arts and Sciences, *viz.* Menſuration, Gauging, Conics, plain and ſpherical Trigonometry, Navigation, Fortification, Gunnery, Aſtronomy, Dialling, Optics, Perſpective, Architecture, Mechanics, Geometry, &c. 4 A large Collection of Mathematical Tables, with a perpetual Almanack, adjuſted to the Year 1735. 5 An Apparatus of the common Mathematical Lines, for the Operation of any Queſtion or Problem, as it is performed by the plain Scale, &c. By *Benj. Martin.* London 1736.

The Lives of all the Princes of Orange, from William the Great, Founder of the Common Wealth of the united Provinces. Written in French by the Baron *Maurier*, 235.O in the Year 1682, and publiſhed at Paris by Order of the French King. To which is added the Life of King William III. from his Birth to his Landing in England, by Mr. Thomas Brown. Together with all the Princes Heads taken from original Draughts. Lond. 1693.

The Works of Plato abridged: With an Account of his Life, Philoſophy, Morals and Politicks. Together 7.D with a Tranſlation of his choiceſt Dialogues. 2 Vols. Illuſtrated with Notes by M. Dacier. Tranſlated from the French by ſeveral Hands. 2d Edition, corrected. Lond. 1720.

Letters

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Colors by Munsell Color Services Lab
Don Williams

Letters of Mr. Pope, and ſeveral eminent Perſons, from the Year 1705, to 1735. Lond. 1735. 67983.D

Pope's and *Swift*'s *Miſcellanies*. 6 Vols. Lond. 1736. 65298.D

Table-Talk: Being the Diſcourſes of *John Selden*, Eſq; or his Senſe of various Matters of Weight and high Conſequence, relating eſpecially to Religion and State. 3d Edit. Lond. 1716. 66320.D

The Reign of Sultan Orchan, ſecond King of the Turks. Tranſlated out of *Hojah Effendi*, an eminent Turkiſh Hiſtorian; by William Seaman. Lond. 1652. 510.D

The Tale of a Tub. To which is added an Account of the Battle between the antient and modern Books in St. James's Library. 8th Edition, with the Author's Apology, and explanatory Notes by W. W--tt--n, B. D. and others. Lond. 1733.

M. Tully Cicero's *five Books of Tuſculan Diſputations*; *viz.* 1. Of the Contempt of Death. 2. Of the Enduring bodily Pain. 3. Of Moderating Grief of Mind. 4. Of other diſorderly Motions of the Mind. 5. Whether Virtue alone be ſufficient to a happy Life. Done into Engliſh, by a Gentleman of Chriſt-Church College, Oxford. Lond. 1715. 65674.D

Cicero's *three Books touching the Nature of the Gods*: Setting forth (from all Antiquity) what Perceptions Man, by the only Light of Reaſon, may entertain concerning a Deity. Done into Engliſh, with Notes and Illuſtrations. Lond. 1683. 505.D

FOLIO'S added.

Eliza, an Epick Poem: In 10 Books. By Sir *Richard Blackmore*. To which is annexed an Index, explaining Perſons, Countries, Cities, Rivers, &c. *(Given by Mr. Samuel Rhodes.)* Lond. 1705. 226.F

C. Cornelii Taciti Opera, quæ extant; Commentariis J. Lipſii illuſtrata. Item, *C. Velleius Paterculus*, cum Notis J. Lipſii. 1648. *(Given by Capt. Mackenny.)* 158.F

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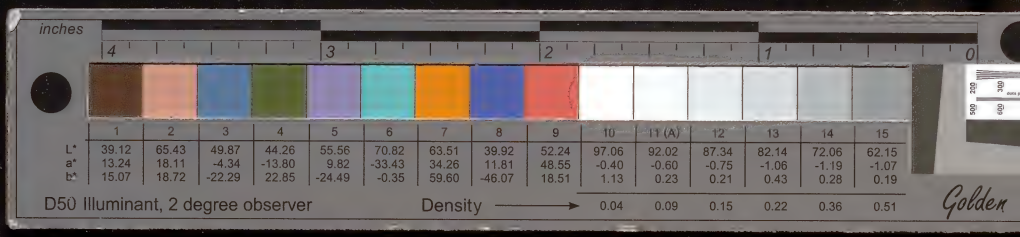
97-28



A ſhort Account of the LIBRARY.

THE Library-Company was form'd in 1731, by Conſtitutions or Articles entred into by 50 Perſons, each obliging himſelf to pay 40 *s.* for purchaſing the firſt Parcel of Books, and 10 *s. per annum* to defray Charges and encreaſe the Library.

Ten Directors or Managers of the Library, and a Treaſurer, are choſen yearly by Vote, at a General Meeting of the Company.

The Number of Members are now encreaſed to upwards of 70. Perſons enclining to be admitted, apply to any one of the Directors, who nominates them at the next monthly Meeting of Directors; and being allowed, and paying to the Treaſurer the Value of a Share at the Time, and ſigning the Articles, they become Members.

Any Member may borrow a Book for 2, 3, or 4 Weeks, leaving his Note for double Value, and paying a ſmall Penalty if 'tis not return'd at the Time agreed; which Penalties are applied to defraying Charges, or purchaſing more Books.

Every Member has an abſolute Property in his Share; may deviſe it in his Will, or diſpoſe of it when he pleaſes to any Perſon the Directors approve. And Shares ſo ſold have always hitherto yielded as much as they had coſt. As Shares encreaſe yearly in Value 10 *s.* ſo much being yearly added by each Subſcriber to the Stock of Books, a Share which at firſt was worth but 40 *s.* is now valued at 6 *l.* 10 *s.* But for this ſmall Sum, which, laid out in Books, would go but a little Way, every Member has the Uſe of a Library now worth upwards of 500 *l.* whereby *Knowledge* is in this City render'd more cheap and eaſy to be come at, to the great Pleaſure and Advantage of the ſtudious Part of the Inhabitants.

Thoſe who are not Subſcribers may notwithſtanding borrow Books, leaving in the Hands of the Librarian, as a Pledge, a Sum of Money proportion'd to the Value of the Book borrow'd, and paying a ſmall Acknowledgment for the Reading, which is apply'd to the Uſe of the Library.

The Library is open and Attendance given every Saturday Afternoon from 4 a Clock 'til 8.

Beſides the Books in this Catalogue given to the Library, the Company have been favour'd with ſeveral generous Donations; as, a curious Air-Pump, with its Apparatus, a large double Microſcope, and other valuable Inſtruments, from the Hon. JOHN PENN, Eſq; A handſome Lot of Ground whereon to build a Houſe for the Library, from the Hon. THOMAS PENN, Eſq; Proprietaries of the Province; and the Sum of 34 *l. Sterl.* (to be laid out in Books) from Dr. *Sydſerfe*, late of *Antigua*.

At preſent the Books are depoſited in the Weſt Wing of the State-Houſe, by Favour of the General Aſſembly.

It is now Ten Years ſince the Company was firſt eſtabliſhed; and we have the Pleaſure of obſerving, That tho' 'tis compos'd of ſo many Perſons of different Sects, Parties and Ways of Thinking, yet no Differences relating to the Affairs of the Library, have ariſen among us; but every Thing has been conducted with great Harmony, and to general Satisfaction. Which happy Circumſtance will, we hope, always continue.

Note, *A Copy of the Articles or Conſtitutions is left in the Library, for the Peruſal of all that deſire to be more fully informed.*

THE END.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

One hitherto unidentified product of Franklin's pen is printed at the end of the catalogue, the brief account of the Library Company on the last page. According to the Minute Book, on July 13, 1741 "B. Franklin read a Paper containing a Brief Account of the Library, which he said he wrote to fill up a Blank that happens to be at the End of the Catalogue he is printing; of which he desired the Opinion of the other Directors present, & they approved of his Design." This certainly will in the future be included in the canon of Franklin's writings.

It has seemed worth while to include descriptions and a census of the extant, pre-Revolutionary catalogues of the Library Company, since this information is not easily available.

1. A/CATALOGUE/OF/BOOKS/BELONGING TO THE/LIBRARY COMPANY/OF/PHILADELPHIA./[line]/*Communiter bona profundere Deûm est.*/[double-line]/PHILADELPHIA: Printed by *B. Franklin*, 1741.

   Collation: A-G^4; title-page, verso blank; Catalogue, pp. [3]-55; Account of the Library, p. [56].

   Copies: MWA, PHi, PPL.

2. THE/CHARTER/OF THE/LIBRARY COMPANY/OF/*PHILADELPHIA.*/[double-line—two ornaments—double line]/*PHILADELPHIA:*/Printed by B. FRANKLIN, M,DCC, XLVI.

[2nd title] LAWS/OF THE/LIBRARY COMPANY/OF/*PHILADELPHIA.*/Made, in PURSUANCE of their/CHARTER,/At a GENERAL MEETING,/held in the LIBRARY, on the Third Day/of *May*, 1742./[double-line]/*PHILADELPHIA:*/Printed by B. FRANKLIN, M,DCC,XLVI.

[3rd title, caption] [type-ornament border]/BOOKS/Added to the/LIBRARY/Since the YEAR 1741./[line]

Collation: A⁴*A*-B⁴A-D⁴; title-page; Charter, pp. 2–8; title-page, verso blank; Laws, pp. 3–15, blank, p. [16]; Catalogue, pp. 1–28; Rules, 3 pp., Advertisement, 1 p.

Copies: CTY, MB (pts. 2 and 3 only), PHI (2 copies), PP, PPL, PU.

3. THE/CHARTER,/LAWS,/AND/CATALOGUE of BOOKS,/OF THE/LIBRARY COMPANY/OF/*PHILADELPHIA.*/[line]/*Communiter bona profundere Deûm est.*/[double-line]/*PHILADELPHIA:*/Printed by B. FRANKLIN, and D. HALL./[rule]/MDCCLVII.

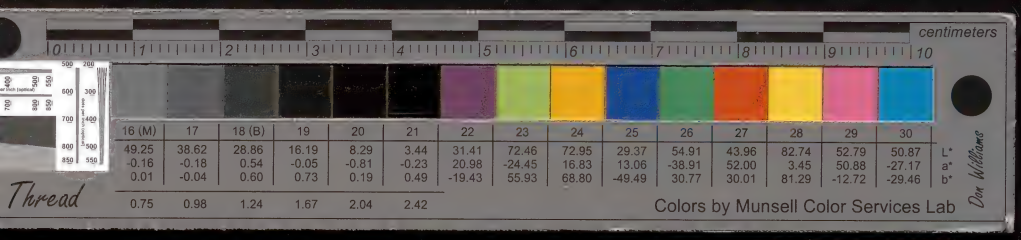
Collation: a-b⁴c-d²A-C⁴D²E⁴F²G-R⁴S²; title-page, verso blank; Charter, pp. 3–8; Laws, pp. 9–20; Account of the Library, pp. 21–23, blank, p. [24]; Catalogue, pp. 1–127, blank, p. [128]; Description of Collection of Medals, pp. 129–132.

Copies: CSMH, CTY, PHI, PPL (2 copies).

4. THE/CHARTER,/LAWS,/AND CATALOGUE of BOOKS,/OF THE/LIBRARY COMPANY/OF/*PHILADELPHIA.*/[line]/*Communiter bona profundere Deûm est.*/[double-line]/*PHILADELPHIA:*/Printed by B. FRANKLIN and D. HALL./M,DCC,LXIV.

Collation: A-L⁸; title-page, verso blank; Charter, pp. 3–8; Laws, pp. 9–18; Rules, pp. 19–21, blank, p. [22]; Account of Library, pp. 23–26; Catalogue, pp. 1–143, blank, p. [144]; Description of Collection of Medals, pp. 145–148; List of Members, pp. 149–150.

Copies: CSMH, CTY, DLC (3 copies), MB, MH, MWA, MIU-C, NHI, NN (2 copies), PHI, PPAMP, PPL (3 copies), PU, RP, RPJCB, VU, and others.



5. THE / CHARTER, / LAWS, / AND / CATALOGUE / OF / BOOKS,/OF THE/LIBRARY COMPANY/OF/*PHILADELPHIA.*/With a Short Account of the Library prefixed./ [line]/*Communiter bona profundere Deûm est.*/[line]/ *PHILADELPHIA:*/Printed by JOSEPH CRUKSHANK, in *Second-street.*/M,DCC,LXX.

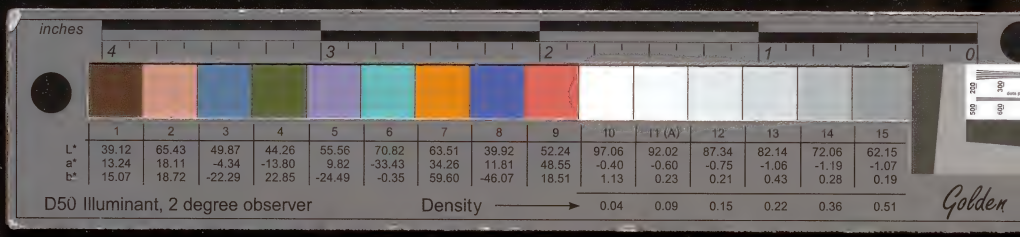
Collation: A-Q⁴(QQ)⁴R-Tt⁴Uu⁴⁻², (QQ)4 blank; title-page, verso blank; Account of Library, pp. 3–8; List of Members, pp. 9–13, blank, p. [14]; Charter, pp. 15–20; Laws, pp. 21–33, blank, p. [34]; Rules, pp. 35–38; Catalogue, 318 pp. without pagination.

Copies: DLC, MWA, NHi, NN, NjP(-), PHi (2 copies), PP, PPAmP, PPL (3 copies), PU (-), RPJCB.

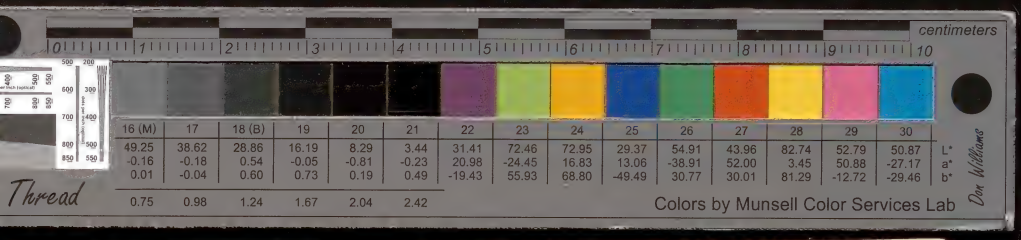
6. THE/*SECOND PART*/OF THE/CATALOGUE/OF/BOOKS, /OF THE/LIBRARY COMPANY/OF/*PHILADELPHIA.*/ [line]/*Communiter bona profundere Deûm est.*/[line]/ PHILADELPHIA:/PRINTED BY R. AITKEN, BOOKSELLER, OPPOSITE/THE LONDON COFFEE-HOUSE, FRONT-STREET./ M,DCC,LXXV.

Collation: A-H⁴I²; title-page, verso blank; Rules, pp. [3]-5; Catalogue, pp. [6]-67, blank, p. [68].

Copies: NN, PHi, PPL, RPJCB.



This facsimile was made from the copy of the 1741 catalogue in the collection of the Library Company of Philadelphia. One thousand copies were printed on Curtis Rag paper by WILLIAM F. FELL CO. of Philadelphia, using Monotype Caslon No. 337 for the Introduction and Note.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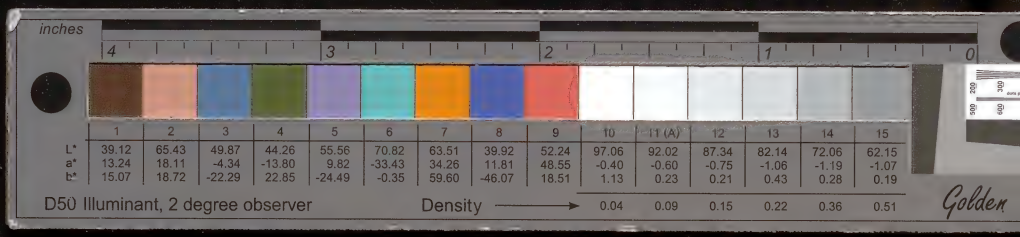
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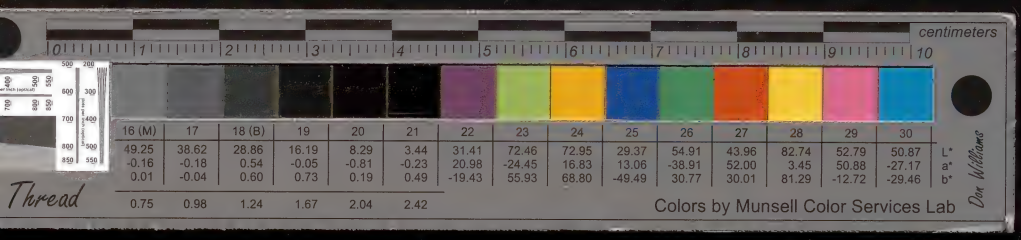
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JANUARY 17, 1956 marks the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the birth of Benjamin Franklin, the founder of The Library Company of Philadelphia. This keepsake is issued by the Library Company as its tribute to the memory of Franklin. It is being sent to its shareholders and friends to remind them that Franklin built the foundation of his many-sided career on books; he wrote them, printed them, sold them, and as founder, director, secretary and librarian of the Library Company made them available to others for their common use and for the benefit of the society in which he lived.

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